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ABSTRACT

This House of Representatives Bill specifies some of the conditions and needs that gave rise to legislation for school-age mothers: the increasing incidence of adolescent pregnancies; the disruption caused to families and educations of such pregnancies; the high risk status of infants born under such circumstances; and the lack of adequate helping agencies and resources for adolescent unwed mothers. The Bill outlines procedures to provide comprehensive services for school-age girls and their offspring. It provides for state grants, outlines the procedures state governments must follow in order to be eligible for such grants, and delineates the services state agencies must provide. Among the service provisions are: one responsible agency, confidentiality assurances, comprehensive health care, family planning services, comprehensive counseling services, and appropriate monitoring agencies for child abuse and neglect. (NG)

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94TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

# H. R. 15414

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 2, 1976

Mr. NOLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

# A BILL

To enact the National School-Age Mother and Child Health Act of 1976.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may be cited as the "National School-Age Mother and Child Health Act of 1976".

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) pregnancy among adolescents is a serious and growing problem;

(2) such pregnancies are a leading cause of school dropout, familial disruption and increasing dependency upon welfare and other community resources;

CG 011102

(3) abortion is an unacceptable way to deal with such pregnancies;

(4) the children of adolescent mothers are often at high risk during their early years, leading to increased infant morbidity and mortality; and

(5) health, education, counseling, and other social services to assist adolescent mothers who choose to bear their children are often inadequate, disorganized, and fragmented.

(b) The purpose of this Act is to—

(1) strengthen family life by encouraging the provision and coordination of comprehensive health, education, psychological, and other social services to adolescent parents and their children (such as job and vocational training and placement and care for the infants and children of adolescent parents) thereby providing a meaningful alternative to abortion;

(2) encourage coordination and improvement of existing services, as well as the provision of new services where necessary;

(3) encourage the protection of life;

(4) reduce the growing number of adolescent pregnancies by encouraging family planning (including natural family planning) and reduce the growing number

of school dropouts by encouraging adolescent parents to complete their education; and

(5) improve the health and parenting capabilities of adolescent parents, in order to maintain the integrity of families and to reduce illness and abuse the children now associated with adolescent parenthood.

SEC. 3. Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201) is amended by adding after section 319 the following new part:

"PART C—COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR SCHOOL-AGE GIRLS, THEIR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

"FORMULA GRANTS TO STATES FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR SCHOOL-AGE GIRLS, THEIR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

"SEC. 320. (a) The Secretary is authorized and directed to make grants, from allotments made under subsection (b), to meet part of the costs to designated State agencies to assist in planning, establishing, maintaining, coordinating, and evaluating programs for comprehensive services for school-age girls, their infants and children in accordance with section 320A. No grant may be made to a designated State agency under this section unless such agency has submitted, and had approved by the Secretary, a State plan for a coordinated and comprehensive program in accordance with section 320A.

"(b) The sums appropriated to carry out the provisions of the section shall be allotted to the States by the Secretary on the basis of the population, financial need, and number of live births to school-age girls per population in the calendar year 1973 of the respective States.

"(c) For the purposes of this section, the term 'State' includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

"STATE PLANS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR SCHOOL-GIRLS, THEIR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

"SEC. 320A. In order to be approved for purposes of this subsection, a State plan for comprehensive services for school-age girls, their infants and children must—

"(a) designate, or provide for the establishment of, a designated State agency as the sole agency for administering or supervising the administration of the State's program under the plan;

"(b) contain satisfactory evidence that the designated State agency will have authority to carry out such plan in conformity with this part;

"(c) (1) provide for the establishment of a State advisory council on comprehensive special services for school-age girls, their infants and children, which shall

include representatives of State health, education, and social service agencies and other appropriate local agencies and nongovernmental organizations and groups. The council shall advise the designated State agency in carrying out its functions under the plan, to assure the coordination of services provided by the health, education, social service, and voluntary agencies, and to approve the State plan prior to its submission to the Secretary;

"(2) in selecting membership for the categories of representation in this paragraph, emphasis shall be placed on choosing individuals from day care and child care services, nursing, law, ethics, social services, individuals with expertise in the physical and emotional development of infants and children, and parents who have worked in appropriate organizations in the community;

"(d) set forth policies and procedures for the expenditure of funds under the plan, which, in the judgment of the Secretary, are designed to assure effective continuing State planning, evaluation, and delivery of services (both public and private) for school-age girls, their infants and children;

"(e) provide for cooperative efforts among governmental or nongovernmental agencies, organizations, and groups concerned with special services for school-age

girls, their infants and children, and for cooperative efforts between such agencies, organizations, and groups in the fields of health, education, and welfare;

"(f) provide such methods of administration (including methods relating to the establishment and maintenance of personnel standards on a merit basis, except that the Secretary shall exercise no authority with respect to the selection, tenure of office, and compensation of any individual employed in accordance with such methods) as are found by the Secretary to be necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the plan;

"(g) provide that the designated State agency will make sure reports, in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may from time to time reasonably require, and will keep such records and afford such access thereto as the Secretary finds necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports;

"(h) provide that the designated State agency will from time to time, but not less often than annually, review its State plan approved under this subsection and submit to the Secretary appropriate modifications thereof;

"(i) define the extent of the problem, the services currently being provided, the deficiencies in the provision of services, and steps planned to organize, coordi-

nate, and provide comprehensive statewide services directly and through agreement with other agencies;

"(j) (1) set forth policies and procedures to assure that the names and any other identifying information of persons receiving services under these programs shall not be submitted to or collected by the Federal Government, State government, and by any individual or organization other than (A) the program actually delivering the services; and (B) third-party payers and in such cases not without the prior informed consent of the individual or the individual's legal guardian;

"(2) set forth policies and procedures to assure that the names and any other identifying information of persons receiving services under these programs, which are disclosed to third-party payers, are kept strictly confidential and are not further disclosed;

"(k) include and provide for the origination, continuation, extension, and improvement of the following services, but not limited to, directly or through cooperative agreements—

"(1) comprehensive health care to school-age girls associated with the continuation of pregnancy, including but not limited to—

"(A) tests for pregnancy;

"(B) screening and diagnosis and treat-

ment of all prenatal and postnatal conditions, including nutritional deficiencies, for a period of one year after birth; and

"(C) referrals when appropriate to other agencies for treatments not covered under this section;

"(2) comprehensive health care to infants and children of school-age girls during infancy and preschool years, including but not limited to—

"(A) comprehensive health care, including but not limited to, neonatal intensive care;

"(B) medical examinations;

"(C) diagnosis and screening of—

"(i) nutritional deficiencies,

"(ii) visual and hearing defects,

"(iii) mental retardation and learning disorders,

"(iv) crippling and handicapping conditions, and

"(v) catastrophic illness;

"(D) referrals when appropriate to other agencies for services not covered under this section;

"(3) health education;

"(4) community outreach and information services;

"(5) family planning services (including natural family planning services and excluding abortion services) and counseling (except abortion referrals);

"(6) continuing education of mothers (including vocational training and assistance in locating employment);

"(7) counseling for the mother and father of the child and the appropriate families;

"(8) infant and child day care;

"(9) adoption and foster care services;

"(10) a coordinated program of social services, including educational, vocational, legal, ethical, social, counseling, and referral services (including adoption counseling) designated for school-age girls until the agency finds that the services are no longer necessary; and

"(11) appropriate services for infant and child abuse and neglect;

"(l) provide assurances that each and every program has made or will make and will continue to make every reasonable effort to collect appropriate reimbursement for its costs in providing health services to persons

who are entitled to insurance benefits under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, to medical assistance under a State plan approved under title XIX of such Act, or to assistance for medical expenses under any other public assistance program or private health insurance program;

"(m) total evaluation of individual needs—medical, nutritional, social, educational, and psychological with management protocol; and

"(n) not provide for provision of (or payment for) abortion services or referral to such services.

"CONFIDENTIALITY

"SEC. 320B. The names and other identifying information of persons receiving services under these programs shall not be submitted to or collected by the Federal Government, State government, and by any individual or organization other than (1) the program actually delivering the services, and (2) third-party payers, and in such case not without the prior informed consent of the individual or the individual's legal guardian.

"VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

"SEC. 320C. The acceptance by any individual of family planning services (including natural family planning services) or family planning or population growth information (including educational materials) provided through financial

assistance under this title (whether by grant or contract) shall be voluntary and shall not be a prerequisite to eligibility for or receipt of any other service or assistance from, or to participation in, any other program of the entity or individual that provided such service or information.

"MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

"SEC. 230D. Applications for grants under this part may be approved by the Secretary only if the application contains or is supported by reasonable assurances that the grants will not result in any decrease in the level of State, local, and other non-Federal funds for services for school-aged girls, their infants and children, and training of persons to provide such services which would (except for such grant) be available to the applicant, but that such grants will be used to supplement and, to the extent practicable, to increase the level of such funds.

"AUTHORIZATION

"SEC. 320E. There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of sections 320 and 320A of the Act $30,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1978, and for each of the next two succeeding fiscal years.

"COORDINATION; REPORTS

"SEC. 320F. There is hereby established within the Maternal and Child Health Service, hereinafter referred to as 'Service', of the Department of Health, Education, and

Welfare an identifiable unit to administer, evaluate, and coordinate the program established by this part. The Service shall submit an annual report to the Secretary which shall include, but not be limited to, suggested modifications to increase and improve the program. The Service shall submit to each designated State agency on at least an annual basis reports on the status of all programs receiving Federal funds under section 320 of this Act.

"DEFINITIONS

"SEC. 320G. For purposes of sections 320 and 320A the term—

"(a) 'school-age girls' means any pregnant female of primary and secondary school age without regard to marital status; and

"(b) 'designated State agency' means a public or private nonprofit entity which is designated by the Governor of a State to carry out the purposes of sections 320A, 320B, 320C, and 320D of this Act.".

SEC. 4. Parts C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K of Public Health Service Act, as in effect the day before the date of enactment of this Act, are redesignated as parts D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L, respectively.

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# H. R. 15414

## A BILL

To enact the National School-Age Mother and Child Health Act of 1976.

By Mr. NOLAN

SEPTEMBER 2, 1976

Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce